

2004 Report of Accomplishments

Kittitas County Conservation District



Natural Resource Improvements in 2004 - Summary

- Secured and expended nearly \$950,000 on private lands in Kittitas County to correct three fish passage barriers opening 0.6 miles of habitat; installed 2 fish screens for nearly 4 cfs; planted 1,700 trees and shrubs at 7 riparian sites; installed a bridge for livestock access over a stream; saved 3 cubic feet per second and 333.6 acre feet/year of water to dedicate to in-stream flow for 20 years; saved 8,600 tons of soil by applying polyacrylamide (PAM); and converted from rill to sprinkler irrigation or install gated pipe in response to the 2005 drought.



Fish screen installation on Dry Creek.

Mission of the Kittitas County Conservation District

- Provide leadership, technical, educational and financial assistance to landowners and land users in their utilization and management of natural resources.

Water Quality Implementation

- See Local Funding below for the results of the PAM cost share activities. Water Quality Implementation funds utilized for cost share reached \$8,238 (partially included in the "paid to landowners" total in the table below).
- One hundred sixty GIS farm plan maps were provided to landowners for conservation planning.
- KCCD funded eight on-the-ground projects to improve water use efficiency during the 2005 drought. The projects included conversion from rill or flood irrigation to sprinklers and conversion from earthen or concrete lined ditch to gated pipe. Total cost share provided was \$19,300.

Basic Funding

- Basic funding was used to support district operations, including administrative, managerial and training functions.

Local Funding

- The Kittitas County PAM Cost Share Program has resulted in thousands of tons of soil saved since the 1999 irrigation season. This program matches funds from the landowner, Kittitas County Public Works and Conservation Commission Implementation grants.

	Acres Enrolled	Estimated Tons of Soil Saved	Cost Share Paid to Landowners
1999	933	1,314	\$ 1,852
2000	1,566	7,562	\$ 7,562
2001	2,737	12,418	\$ 7,327
2002	1,928	9,774	\$ 6,255
2003	1,702	8,190	\$ 4,769
2004	1,786	8,599	\$ 6,870

Watershed Conservation/Habitat Restoration

- KCCD staff worked under the Yakima Tributary Access and Habitat Program (YTAHP) completing 14.7 miles of stream assessment in Kittitas County; opening up 0.6 miles of stream habitat by correcting three fish passage barriers on Coleman, Little Naneum and East Branch Wilson Creek; installing a flat plate fish screen for a 1.75 CFS gravity diversion on Coleman Creek and a pump screen for a 2 CFS diversion on Dry Creek; intensive in-stream restoration of 350 feet of Coleman Creek; installing three center pivots and a pump station to convert from gravity to sprinkler irrigation on Dry Creek; and installing a bridge for a livestock crossing on Wilson Creek. Engineering, design, cultural resource surveys and permit applications are complete or underway for projects on Caribou Creek, Lyle Creek, Currier Creek, Reecer Creek, Fogarty Ditch, Swauk Creek and the Yakima River. YTAHP is funded by a grant from the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA). Funds to construct projects in 2004 came from BPA, the Salmon Recovery Funding Board, and Department of Ecology's Conveyance Infrastructure Fund.
- Additional funding was secured for five projects through Department of Ecology's Conveyance Infrastructure program. All projects involve barrier removal and fish screening and construction is expected in the next two years.

- KCCD funded the planting of 1,700 potted and bare root tree and shrub seedlings and at least 1,000 willow cuttings at two sites on the North Fork Teanaway River, and one site each on Coleman Creek, Little Naneum Creek, Mercer Creek, Wilson Creek, and Swauk Creek. Contracted labor with Washington Conservation Corp completed the planting.
- In support of the Teanaway Temperature TMDL and the Upper Yakima River Suspended Sediment TMDL, KCCD staff sampled the water at a dozen sites in the Teanaway watershed. Parameters include temperature, suspended sediment, turbidity, macro-invertebrates and discharge. Funds are provided by a CCWF Grant.
- KCCD contracted staff from the Kittitas County Water Purveyors to manage the multi-million dollar Manastash Restoration Project. The project goal is to construct facilities that allow diversion of irrigation water while accommodating fish passage and screening. Engineering and design, cultural surveys, and permit applications are complete or underway for three of the five structures involved.



A perched culvert, the first Coleman Creek fish passage barrier, was removed and replaced with a bridge.

Irrigation Efficiencies

- KCCD funded two contracts on 305 acres to install three center pivot systems, two linear sprinkler systems, and 3,000 feet of piping for irrigation water delivery to the farms. The project resulted in an additional 333.6 acre-feet/year in Taneum Creek for 20 years. Over \$670,000 was contracted to landowners for project implementation.

Professional Engineering

- Professional engineering services were used to finalize designs and provide construction oversight on five projects that resulted in the correction of three fish passage barriers; installation of two fish screens; intensive in-stream restoration of 300 feet of stream; installation of three center pivots and a pumping station; and installation of a bridge for livestock access. Design and engineering is underway for two additional projects slated for construction in 2006.

Small Farm Programs

- KCCD small farm assistance focused on the distribution of the Rural Living Handbook and the Small Ranch Manual. Both publications are aimed at new rural landowners.

Community Collaboration & Coordination

- Coordinated with the Kittitas County Hay Growers Association and WSU Extension to establish a study of the effects of drought conditions on timothy hay.

Information & Education

- Hosted or attended the KCCD Annual Meeting, Kittitas County Hay Grower's Conference, a drought workshop sponsored by the Hay Growers. Total attendance was 172.
- KCCD booth at the Kittitas County Fair (attendance greater than 60,000 over five days), including a live demonstration of erosion control using PAM.
- Operated one of several stations at the WSU Extension Elementary Agricultural Appreciation Fair 2005 that included 326 third grade students (and 72 parents) from the Kittitas, Thorp, Cle Elum-Roslyn, Easton, and Ellensburg School Districts.
- The KCCD provided approximately \$600 to local schools to fund costs for agricultural related field trips and science materials.
- KCCD articles were published in the Daily Record and the Grange News. Contacts totaled 88,000 in three editions of the Daily Record and one of the Grange News.
- KCCD published three newsletters with information about projects and available cost share and technical assistance, including a special expanded edition that was published in response to the Drought conditions. Total contacts were 5,500 private landowners in Kittitas County.

Washington Conservation Districts assisting
land managers with their conservation choices